

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

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April 13, 2006
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Glenn A. Cowelchuk et al.
Serial No.: 10/710,655
Filed: July 27, 2004
Group Art Unit: 3612
Examiner: Patricia Lynn Engle
Confirmation No.: 4654
Title: TRIM ASSEMBLY HAVING AN INTEGRATED GROMMET AND
METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME
Attorney Docket: MASL-46

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

April 13, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 5, 2006 indicating that our previous response filed on January 3, 2006 was not fully responsive. As noted in the Office Action only the first three pages of our 15 page response was received in the Patent Office. A review of our records indicates that all 15 pages were successfully faxed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the above-indicated date. In any event, Applicants appreciate Examiner's willingness to correct the

inadvertent deficiency. Accordingly, Applicants resubmit our previous response in its entirety. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An automotive interior trim assembly for coupling to an automobile, comprising:

a substrate member forming at least a part of a structural support of the trim assembly, said substrate member having a front surface adapted to face the interior of the automobile and a back surface adapted to face opposite said front surface;

a connecting member integrally molded with said substrate member and extending away from said back surface, said connecting member having an aperture formed therein; and

a grommet integrally molded in said aperture and adapted to secure a wire to said connecting member so as to prevent movement of the wire with respect to said substrate member.

2. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate member has a hardness and said grommet has a hardness that is relatively lower than the hardness of said substrate member.

3. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 further comprising:

a cover member overlying at least a portion of said front surface and adapted to provide a soft feel to the trim assembly, said cover member having a hardness that is relatively lower than a hardness of said substrate member.

4. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said substrate member is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic olefin, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, styrene maleic anhydride, and polycarbonate/acrylonitrile butadiene styrene alloy.

5. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 4, wherein said grommet is formed from a thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said grommet is formed from a thermoplastic elastomer.

7. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said connecting member completely encapsulates said aperture.

8. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1, wherein said aperture includes a slot portion extending to an edge of said connecting member, the wire insertable in said grommet through said slot portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The trim assembly of claim [[1]] 8, wherein said grommet includes a first slit therethrough and extending ~~at least partially~~ across said grommet so as to intersect a periphery of said grommet, said slit adapted to secure the wire to said connecting member when the wire is inserted through said slit.

10. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 9, wherein said grommet includes a second slit therethrough and extending at least partially across said grommet, said second slit being substantially perpendicular to said first slit to form a plurality of radial fingers, said first and second slits adapted to secure the wire to said connecting member when the wire is inserted through said first and second slits.

11. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as an instrument panel for an automobile.

12. (Original) The trim assembly of claim 1 configured as a door panel for an automobile.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)